

MEMORIZE A POEM A MONTH

The Violet

By Jane Taylor



Down in a green and shady bed,
 A modest violet grew,
 Its stalk was bent, it hung its head,
 As if to hide from view.
 And yet it was a lovely flower,
 Its color bright and fair;
 It might have graced a rosy bower,
 Instead of hiding there.
 Yet thus it was content to bloom,
 In modest tints arrayed;
 And there diffused a sweet perfume
 Within the silent shade.
 Then let me to the valley go
 This pretty flower to see;
 That I may also learn to grow
 In sweet humility.

Study Help

The big, bright red gumamela flowers seem to call to you as you pass by. You cannot help seeing the attractive yellow bells that lean against walls or cover gates and roofs of cottages. Name some more flowers that expose themselves to gazers. Name some flowers that are pretty and sweet but do not attempt to attract people's attention.

Read "The Violet" through silently. What picture do you see in your mind after one reading? Read each stanza over again. What does each stanza tell about the violet? Give one word used by the poet that describes the violet. What word in the last stanza names the character trait that a child can develop if she imitates the violet?

Read the poem aloud to your mother or to a friend. Read it over and over again, remembering the pictures in order and remembering the words that describe them. Now, try to recite the poem from memory. When you come to a place where you cannot go on, look at the part and read. Repeat until you have memorized the whole poem.

After an hour, recite it. The next day repeat it. Let two days pass and recite it again.